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Parliament Hill report



Garth Turner MP Halton-Peel

"We of the Ku Klux Klan are unapologetically committed to the interests, ideas and cultural values of the White majority."

So, these seven guys stood there on the street corners, first in Acton, then later last Saturday morning in Georgetown, with their white robes, pointed hats and hoods over their

One Klansman held a sign saying the group hailed out of Brampton and the others gave out leaflets which, among other things, contained the statement above.

The incidents were short, but they rattled people. In Georgetown, the Klan members beat a hasty retreat after a woman de-hooded one of them.

Saturday shoppers retreated in horror into the stores along Main Street and then huddled by the windows looking out at a scene which is only supposed to take place in Alabama, or maybe Missouri. A string of calls rang through at the Halton Region police station, and officers responded.

The Klansmen were questioned, but they weren't stopped by police it's still a free country. Instead, it was the revulsion and actions of the people on the street that eventually caused them to go.

Of course, the Toronto media were intensely interested in what had gone on. The KKK showing up in two quiet towns in Halton was almost unthinkable. But it happened. Now we have to deal with that fact.

What was the Klan's message?

"There are hundreds of organizations working for the interest of the blacks," their literature said. "How many groups stand up for the cultural values and ideals of the White majority. Not many; as a result we are faced with reverse discrimination in jobs, promotions, and scholarships - busing or forced integration - high taxes for the minority welfare - a high rate of brutal crime - gun control - anti-whites movies and TV programs - in short, a society oriented to the wishes of minorities.

This may not be hate literature, but it's a dangerous message being spelled out in code. And the KKK extremists are not alone in saying things like that.

Statements close to that are in my mail far too often. They are expressed at public meetings, as

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people discuss immigration policy, multiculturalism, bilingualism, law and order and crime. Of course, there's nothing wrong with that, because no policy can be above

But the code words tell us that intolerance is okay sometimes, if it has the goal of preserving Canadian society the way it is now - the way Acton and Georgetown are - mostly white, English-speaking and middle class.

So it made me proud to see the reaction of those people the Klan intruders thought would be most sympathetic to their message of white power.

Instead of agreeing with the racists, Georgetown turfed them out. People turned their backs, fled from the street, called in the cops, pulled off the hoods and told them to get out of our town and not come

The next day two people even stood along Guelph Street with a banner saying exactly that. And people drove by, honking their horns in support.

Canada is not the United States. That's one reason we have, for 200 years, been proud that millions of us have been free to live and work

It's why we're taking in refugees from Somalia and Yugoslavia while the Americans use Coast Guard cruisers to keep pathetic, teeming boatloads of Haitians out. It's why Canadians, with less than one per cent of the world's population, do 10% of all the world's peacekeep-

It's why the KKK put its tail between its legs and scurried out of Halton Hills one Saturday morning, shamed and uncovered. They'd picked the wrong town.

ELLEN ROSEMAN

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